GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:633
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2005
DEMAND OF LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present demand of Liquefied Natural Gas quantity being supplied through indigenous production and quantity being imported, project-wise;

(b) whether the Government has proposed for import of huge quantity of LNG through pipelines from different countries;

(c) if so, the details of action taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has also taken steps to increase indigenous production of LNG; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) As against an allocation of 120 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD), the availability of Natural Gas is only around 84 MMSCMD, including 9 MMSCMD of Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) available from Petronet LNG Limited (PLL)'s Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal at Dahej in Gujarat.

(b) & (c) To meet the current and projected shortfall in supply, Government propose to import natural gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as well as through transnational pipelines from gas rich countries in West Asia (including Iran), Central Asia and South East Asia. Government is particularly pursuing gas imports through pipelines from Iran through Pakistan and from Myanmar through Bangladesh. The negotiations with Iran are at an initial stage. For the pipeline from Myanmar through Bangladesh following tripartite Ministerial-level discussions at Yangon on 12-13 January 2005, a draft MoU was prepared at the technical level in Yangon on 24-25 February 2005, and is likely to be signed shortly in Dhaka by the Ministers of the three countries concerned. PLL had signed an agreement with RasGas, Qatar in July 1999 for import of 7.5 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) of LNG. Recently, an understanding has been reached with Iran for import of 5 MMTPA of LNG with a provision for later adding 2.5 MMTPA. Import of 2.5 MMTPA of LNG from Qatar has already commenced.

(d) & (e) In order to augment domestic gas supplies, the following initiatives have been taken;

(i) Intensification in the exploration and production through New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) bidding rounds.

(ii) Intensification in exploitation of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) resources through competitive bidding rounds.